(d) what action Government are willing to take against errant persons/ officials responsible for such allotment; and

(e) the status of such irregular allotments of petrol pumps, LPG and Kerosene outlets?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Out of the 409 cases of selection of dealers/ distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships examined by a Two-Judge Committee appointed by the Supreme Court of India, 297 cases have been recommended by the Committee for cancellation.

(c) Out of the cases referred to the Two-Judge Committee, the number of cases relating to the State of Karnataka was 24.

(d) and (e) The Supreme Court of India is now expected to take a decision in the matter on the basis of the report of the Committee. Further action by the Government in this regard will depend on the orders of the Court.

Gas Pipeline Project in Kochi

2001. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the installation of gas pipeline project in Kochi, connected wtih the LNG terminal, pending for sanction;

(b) whether Government accorded permission for the project and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed project is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) has conceptualized the laying of three pipeline networks from Kochi to Kayamkulam, Manglore and Bangalore for the supply of regassified LNG from the proposed Kochi LNG terminal.

(b) and (c) GAIL is a Navratna company and its Board is empowered to decide implementation of such projects, subject to Government policy.

However, the implementation of these projects is subject to their commercial viability, which is dependent on achieving up-stream gas supply tie ups and downstream marketing tie ups. The projects would take at least thirty months for completion from the date of approval.

Price of Aviation turbine Fuel

2002. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the price of aviation turbine fuel during the last one year which had to be paid by the domestic airline companies; month-wise;

(b) the duties and taxes that had to be paid by the companies during the last corresponding period;

(c) whether it is a fact that IATA has pointed out that any price of ATF which corresponds to the price of crude oil which is more than US dollar 30 per barrel will make aviation industry unviable;

(d) if so, whether Government have initiated any move to visit the tax regime in order to make the industry viable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The selling price for the supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to domestic Airline Companies includes statutory payment of duties and taxes as applicable from time to time. The details of the price paid by domestic Airline Companies at four metro locations *i.e.* Delhi, Kolkatta, Mumbai, Chennai for the period from January 2004 onwards are set-out at statement—I. (see below) The details of duties and taxes paid by these Companies during this period are set-out at statement-ll. (see below)

(c) No such information is available with the Government.

(d) and (e) The excise duty on ATF was reduced from 16% to 8% with effect from 9-1-2004.